

## SENATE—Thursday, January 27, 2000

The Senate met at 8:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore, STROM THURMOND, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Lloyd J. Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, Lord of our lives, and the source of our unity, we meet together in preparation for joining the Members of the House of Representatives for the State of the Union Address by our President. Bless him as he speaks and the Members of Congress as they listen. Draw us up to You by Your majesty, to one another by shared patriotism, and to the challenges ahead by mutual commitment to discern and do what is best for America, In Your holy name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will momentarily proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the President's State of the Union Address. However, we have a few housekeeping items to consider prior to our departure.

### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS ASSEMBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to House concurrent resolution 241 authorizing the address for this evening.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 241) that the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, January 27, 2000, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 241) was agreed to.

### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. this evening, Thursday, January 27, 2000.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2006

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a second time and an objection having been heard for further consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. As a reminder to Members, the Senate will not be in session on Friday. We will reconvene Monday at 12 noon, and at 2 p.m. resume consideration of the bankruptcy bill. Several amendments are scheduled to be debated; however, no votes will occur during Monday's session of the Senate. The next votes will occur on Tuesday at a time to be determined by the two leaders. I emphasize that there will be votes on Tuesday. We will notify Members as to the time some time during the day on Monday.

I yield the floor so that Members can assemble to proceed to the House of Representatives.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session, the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a mes-

sage from the President of the United States, transmitting a nomination, which was referred to the appropriate committee.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

### REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 78

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was ordered to lie on the table:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow Americans: We are fortunate to be alive at this moment in history. Never before has our nation enjoyed, at once, so much prosperity and social progress with so little internal crisis or so few external threats. Never before have we had such a blessed opportunity—and, therefore, such a profound obligation—to build the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

We begin the new century with over 20 million new jobs. The fastest economic growth in more than 30 years; the lowest unemployment rates in 30 years; the lowest poverty rates in 20 years; the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates on record; the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years.

Next month, America will achieve the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.

We have built a new economy.

Our economic revolution has been matched by a revival of the American spirit: Crime down by 20 percent, to its lowest level in 25 years. Teen births down seven years in a row and adoptions up by 30 percent. Welfare rolls cut in half to their lowest levels in 30 years.

My fellow Americans, the state of our Union is the strongest it has ever been.

As always, the credit belongs to the American people.

My gratitude also goes to those of you in this chamber who have worked with us to put progress above partisanship.

Eight years ago, it was not so clear to most Americans there would be much to celebrate in the year 2000. Then our nation was gripped by economic distress, social decline, political gridlock. The title of a best-selling book asked: "America: What went wrong?" In the best traditions of our